

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RAUL ARELLANO, JR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

OFFICER HODGE, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No.: 14-CV-590 JLS (JLB)

**ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION TO AMEND THIRD
AMENDED COMPLAINT**

(ECF No. 81)

Presently before the Court is Plaintiff Raul Arellano, Jr.'s Motion to Amend Third Amended Complaint. (Mot. to Amend, ECF No. 81.) Also before the Court are Defendants' Opposition to (ECF No. 84) and Plaintiff's Replies in Support of (ECF Nos. 98, 104) the Motion to Amend. The Court took this matter under submission without oral argument pursuant to Civil Local Rule 7.1(d)(1). (ECF No. 82.) Having considered the parties' arguments and the law, the Court **DENIES** Plaintiff's Motion to Amend. (ECF No. 81.)

BACKGROUND

On March 13, 2014, Plaintiff filed a complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 alleging inadequate medical care in violation of the Eighth Amendment. (*See generally* ECF No. 1.) Plaintiff filed his operative Third Amended Complaint (TAC) on July 16, 2015, reiterating his Eighth Amendment claim and adding a claim under the Equal Protection

1 Clause. (See generally ECF No. 59.) Currently pending before the Honorable Jill L.
 2 Burkhardt are the fully-briefed Motion to Dismiss Claims Against Defendants Glynn and
 3 Seeley in Plaintiff's Third Amended Complaint (ECF No. 63) and Motion to Dismiss
 4 Claims Against Defendant Zamora in Plaintiff's Third Amended Complaint (ECF No. 69).
 5 On February 16, 2016, Plaintiff filed the instant Motion to Amend. (ECF No. 81.)

6 **LEGAL STANDARD**

7 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a), a plaintiff may amend his
 8 complaint once as a matter of course within specified time limits. Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(1).
 9 "In all other cases, a party may amend its pleading only with the opposing party's written
 10 consent or the court's leave. The court should freely give leave when justice so requires."
 11 Fed. R. Civ. P. 15 (a)(2).

12 While courts exercise broad discretion in deciding whether to allow amendment,
 13 they have generally adopted a liberal policy. *See United States ex rel. Ehmcke Sheet Metal*
 14 *Works v. Wausau Ins. Cos.*, 755 F. Supp. 906, 908 (E.D. Cal. 1991) (citing *Jordan v. Cnty.*
 15 *of L.A.*, 669 F.2d 1311, 1324 (9th Cir.), *rev'd on other grounds*, 459 U.S. 810 (1982)).
 16 Accordingly, leave is generally granted unless the court harbors concerns "such as undue
 17 delay, bad faith or dilatory motive on the part of the movant, repeated failure to cure
 18 deficiencies by amendments previously allowed, undue prejudice to the opposing party by
 19 virtue of allowance of the amendment, futility of amendment, etc." *Foman v. Davis*, 371
 20 U.S. 178, 182 (1962). "Amendments seeking to add claims are to be granted more freely
 21 than amendments adding parties." *Union Pac. R.R. Co. v. Nev. Power Co.*, 950 F.2d 1429,
 22 1432 (9th Cir. 1991) (citing *Martell v. Trilogy Ltd.*, 872 F.2d 322, 324 (9th Cir. 1989)).

23 **ANALYSIS**

24 Plaintiff notes that he only recently "found out that this Defendants [sic] didn't only
 25 might have violated the 8th Amendment of cruel and unusual punishment but also Due
 26 Process." (Mot. to Amend 1, ECF No. 81.) Plaintiff therefore seeks leave to amend his
 27 complaint as "to all deffendants [sic] except for defendant [sic] Officer Hodge . . . to add
 28 the Due Process violation base[d] on the facts already stated on the allegations [he]

1 previously and recently submitted.” (*Id.*)

2 Defendants oppose Plaintiff’s Motion to Amend, arguing that all of the cases upon
 3 which Plaintiff relies involved pretrial detainees, who therefore “could not bring their
 4 [inadequate medical care] claims under the Eighth Amendment, but could only do so under
 5 the Due Process Clause.” (Opp’n 3, ECF No. 84 (citing *City of Revere v. Mass. Gen.*
 6 *Hosp.*, 463 U.S. 239, 243–44 (1983))). “In his Motion to Amend, Plaintiff does not claim
 7 that he is actually a pre-trial detainee, nor does he seek to allege any additional facts that
 8 would implicate procedural due process.” (*Id.*) “Thus, i[t] appears that Plaintiff is simply
 9 seeking to bring his medical-care claim under both the Eighth Amendment and substantive
 10 due process” (*Id.*) Consequently, “amending the Third Amended Complaint would
 11 be futile” because “Plaintiff’s inadequate-medical-care claim can be analyzed under the
 12 more explicit Eighth Amendment.” (*Id.* at 4.)

13 Although leave to amend should be freely given, “[f]utility alone . . . is a sufficient
 14 basis upon which to deny a motion for leave to amend.” *Richey v. Thaut*, No. C11-5680
 15 RBL/KLS, 2012 WL 527521, at *2 (W.D. Wash. Feb. 16, 2012) (citing *Roth v. Garcia*
 16 *Marquez*, 942 F.2d 617, 628 (9th Cir. 1991)); *see also Saul v. United States*, 928 F.2d 829,
 17 843 (9th Cir. 1991) (“A district court does not err in denying leave to amend where the
 18 amendment would be futile . . . or would be subject to dismissal.”). “[A] court may exercise
 19 its discretion to deny leave to amend where the amendment is duplicative of existing
 20 claims[and] . . . may also look to the sufficiency of allegations in a proposed amended
 21 complaint to determine if they would be futile.” *Gragossian v. Cardinal Health Inc.*, No.
 22 07-CV-1818-H (LSP), 2008 WL 2157004, at *1 (S.D. Cal. May 21, 2008) (citing *Bonin*
 23 *v. Calderon*, 59 F.3d 815, 846 (9th Cir. 1995); *Jones v. Cnty. Redevelopment Agency*, 733
 24 F.2d 646, 650–51 (9th Cir. 1984)).

25 The Court concludes that Plaintiff’s proposed amendment would be futile and
 26 therefore **DENIES** Plaintiff’s Motion to Amend. (ECF No. 81.) Defendants are correct
 27 that the cases cited by Plaintiff involve pre-trial detainees, *see City of Canton v. Harris*,
 28 489 U.S. 378, 381 {1989}; *City of Revere*, 463 U.S. at 243–44; *Smith v. Knox Cnty. Jail*,

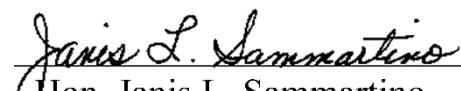
1 666 F.3d 1037, 1039 (7th Cir. 2012); *Phillips v. Roane Cnty.*, 534 F.3d 531, 536, 539 (6th
 2 Cir. 2008); *Thomas v. Kippermann*, 846 F.2d, 1009, 1010–11 (5th Cir. 1988), and that “i[t]
 3 appears that Plaintiff is simply seeking to bring his medical-care claim under both the
 4 Eighth Amendment and substantive due process” (see Opp’n 3, ECF No. 84). “A claim
 5 that the defendants failed to provide a state prisoner with adequate medical care is asserted
 6 as an Eighth Amendment claim, and not as regarding procedural or substantive due
 7 process.” *Williams v. Allen*, No. CV 05-1652-PHX-PGR, 2006 WL 3499924, at *3 (D.
 8 Ariz. Dec. 5, 2006) (citing *Jones v. Blanas*, 393 F.3d 918, 931 (9th Cir. 2004); *Robinson*
 9 *v. Pickett*, 16 Fed. App’x 577, 579 (9th Cir. 2001)). “Therefore, Plaintiff’s motion to
 10 amend his complaint to state a claim that his right to due process was violated by
 11 Defendants should be denied for failure to state a claim on which relief may be granted.”
 12 *Id.*; see also *Spinks v. Lopez*, No. 1:10-CV-01886-AWI, 2013 WL 1876003, at *3–4 (E.D.
 13 Cal. May 3, 2013).

14 **CONCLUSION**

15 In light of the foregoing, the Court **DENIES** Plaintiff’s Motion to Amend. (ECF
 16 No. 81.)

17 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

18
 19 Dated: July 21, 2016

20 
 21 Hon. Janis L. Sammartino
 22 United States District Judge